

What is claimed is:

1. A notification generation and transmittal method, comprising:
 - 5 associating a user with a client device;
 - registering said association with a server;
 - generating, on said server, a notification for said user, said notification including a set of data selected from an application database by a process having encoded rules; and,
 - transmitting said notification to said user via said client device.
- 10 2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said associating a user with a client device further includes authenticating said user.
- 15 3. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said transmitting said notification further includes said client having a push-configured run-time-component capable of waiting for a notification.
4. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said transmitting said notification further includes said client having a poll-configured run-time-component capable of setting a timer; waiting for an expiration of said timer; and, querying said server for said notification on detecting said expiration.
- 20 5. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said encoded rules specify a type of notification and wherein said client device selects a notification handler to display said notification based on said type of notification specified.
6. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said process having encoded rules includes at least one data abstraction layer object.
7. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said application database is updated following said transmitting of said notification.

8. The method as recited in claim 1 where said client device handles said data set contained in said notification by means of a client application and said notification contains a statement enabling said client application to interactively query said application database.
- 5 9. The method as recited in claim 1 further including formatting said notification for display on said client device using one or more formatting rules incorporated into a run-time-component on said client device, said formatting rules operating independently of any interpretation of any symbols embedded in said set of data, thereby eliminating the need to transmit formatting information along with said set of data.
- 10 10. The method as recited in claim 1 further including packaging said notification by one or more packaging rules incorporated into a server run-time-component such that the data matches a form expected by a client run-time-component, thereby ensuring that one or more formatting rules incorporated into said client run-time-component, and operating independently of any data-related symbol-interpretation, can properly format said set of data for display on said client device.
- 15 11. A notification generation and transmittal apparatus, comprising:
 - a client device, said client device being associated with a particular user;
 - a server capable of registering said association between said client device and said particular user;
 - a notification for said user generated on said server, said notification including a set of data selected from an application database by a process having encoded rules; and,
 - a network capable of being used to transmit said notification to said user via said client device.
- 20 12. The apparatus as recited in claim 11 wherein said client further includes a push-configured run-time-component capable of waiting for a notification.

13. The apparatus as recited in claim 11 wherein said client further includes a poll-configured run-time-component capable of setting a timer; waiting for an expiration of said timer, and, querying said server for said notification on detecting said expiration.
14. The apparatus as recited in claim 11 wherein said encoded rules specify a type of notification and wherein said client device selects a notification handler to display said notification based on said type of notification specified.
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15. The apparatus as recited in claim 11 wherein said notification is formatted for display on said client device using one or more formatting rules incorporated into a run-time-component on said client device, said formatting rules operating independently of any interpretation of any symbols embedded in said set of data, thereby eliminating the need to transmit formatting information along with said set of data.
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16. A notification generation and transmittal device, comprising:
 - means for associating a user with a client device;
 - means for registering said association with a server;
 - 15 means for generating, on said server, a notification for said user, said notification including a set of data selected from an application database by a process having encoded rules; and,
 - means for transmitting said notification to said user via said client device.
17. The device as recited in claim 16 wherein said client device includes a push-configured run-time-component capable of waiting for a notification.
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18. The device as recited in claim 16 wherein said client includes a poll-configured run-time-component capable of setting a timer; waiting for an expiration of said timer; and, querying said server for said notification on detecting said expiration.
19. The device as recited in claim 16 wherein said process having encoded rules includes at least one data abstraction layer object.
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20. The method as recited in claim 16 further including packaging said notification by one or more packaging rules incorporated into a server run-time-component such that the data matches a form expected by a client run-time-component, thereby ensuring that one or more formatting rules incorporated into said client run-time-component, and operating 5 independently of any data-related symbol-interpretation, can properly format said set of data for display on said client device.

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